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Director of
Central
Intelligence

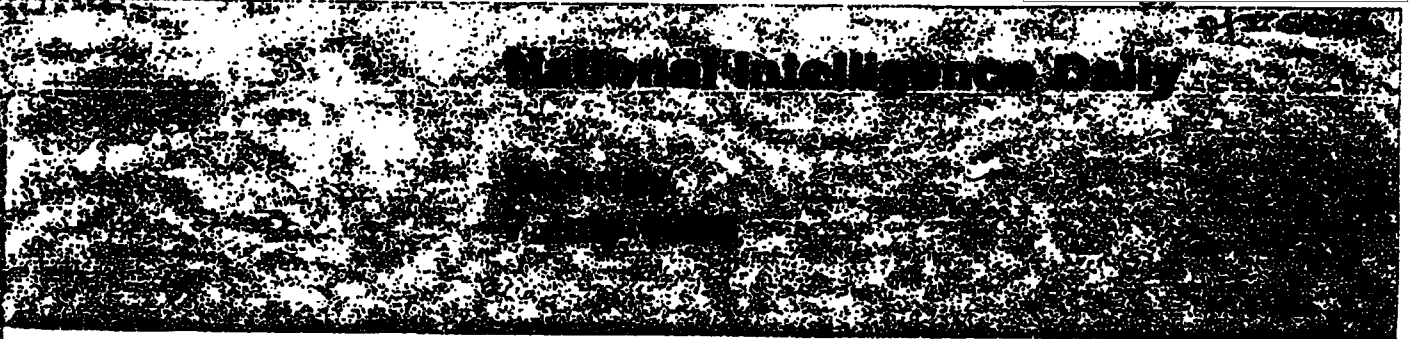
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Contents

Philippines: Attempt to Form Rival Government	2
Nicaragua: Government Crackdown Continues	3
Eastern Europe: Economies Still Struggling	4

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

Notes

China: Oil Production Growth Slows	7
China: Currency Devaluation	7
USSR: Problem at Nuclear Plant	8

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

In Brief	9

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

Special Analyses

Eastern Europe: Aftermath of Chernobyl	10
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7 July 1986

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Eastern Europe: Indicators of Reaction to the Chernobyl Accident of 26 April

	Bulgaria	Czechoslovakia	Hungary	East Germany	Poland	Romania	Yugoslavia
Initial press announcement	4/28	4/30	4/28	4/29	4/28	4/29	4/29
First admitted Soviet casualties		4/30	4/29	4/30	4/30	4/29	4/29
Medical warnings issued	5/1	5/6	5/2	5/7	4/29	5/2	5/1
Increased radiation announced	**	**	**		**	**	**
Admitted economic losses	**	**	**		**	**	**
Accepted Western assistance					**	**	
Changed nuclear programs	**						**
Private statements of ire by officials	**		**	**	**	**	**
Requested compensation from Soviets			**		**	**	
Cited Voice of America as media verification					**		

* Double asterisk indicates date unknown.

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7 July 1986

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Special Analysis**EASTERN EUROPE: Aftermath of Chernobyl'**

The Chernobyl' accident has introduced new frictions into Eastern Europe's relations with the USSR. It has also provoked anger toward Western Europe over the EC's temporary ban on East European food exports.

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Soviet failure to warn Eastern Europe of the accident quickly and to share information, despite a CEMA agreement, angered leaders in many countries. Moscow has shown no willingness to accommodate the East Europeans' reported demands for compensation, however, and the ire expressed in some countries toward Western Europe has not slowed efforts to establish formal EC-CEMA relations.

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Relations With the USSR

East European governments did not extend the customary formal condolences over the disaster to the Soviet Government, and officials from most Warsaw Pact countries complained privately to the Soviets about the lack of information.

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Attempts to follow Moscow's line by minimizing the accident eroded the populace's already limited confidence in the governments of most East European regimes.

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Many people, distrustful of government information, assumed the threat to public health was worse than announced and relied on Western radio for news on the accident. The Polish regime even cited the Voice of America to calm the population's fears of health hazards. The accident also stimulated fledgling environmental and antinuclear groups, which will probably fuel political dissidence.

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Relations With the European Community

Officials in Hungary, Poland, and Yugoslavia quickly denounced the EC import ban as a politically motivated move to protect domestic agriculture. The East Europeans claim the ban cost them more than \$100 million in lost earnings in May, and financially troubled Poland and Romania have used the ban as an excuse for not making debt payments.

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7 July 1986

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Despite their anger, however, all East European countries responded positively to a recent EC proposal to pursue bilateral and CEMA-EC agreements simultaneously, according to diplomatic reporting. An EC trade official has told US diplomats that the Community will probably launch trade negotiations with Romania, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia in the near future. [redacted]

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Outlook

The Chernobyl' incident appears unlikely to affect the East Europeans' relationship with Moscow in any fundamental way, even in the short run. [redacted] the Soviets and East Europeans discussed the compensation issue in Moscow. [redacted] the East Europeans were determined to press the issue. [redacted]

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Compensation may also have been on the agenda of the unprecedented meeting Soviet leader Gorbachev had with East European party leaders following the regular session of the Warsaw Pact's Political Consultative Committee in Budapest that involved larger delegations. In public, however, the Soviets have avoided any hint they might compensate any country. [redacted]

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The Soviets have disappointed East European hopes that Gorbachev would treat his allies more like equals than did his predecessors. The East Europeans believe themselves unfairly penalized by the accident, but they have little leverage with Moscow. At most, they may signal their displeasure by dragging their feet in future economic negotiations with the Soviets. [redacted]

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11

7 July 1986

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